(a) whether it is a fact that there is a significant decrease in sale in Fair Price Shops through Public Distribution System in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of the sales through FPS in Delhi, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the decrease in sales; and

(d) whether a similar trend has also been observed in other metros as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in food subsidy bill

1234. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food subsidy bill has registered 325 per cent increase in seven years;

(b) whether no accounts are maintained to check whether subsidy actually went towards feeding the poor; and

(c) the amount lost on "transit shortages" and "regularisation of shortages" during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) During 1996-97 the total food subsidy released was Rs. 5,166 crore whereas during 2002-03 the total food subsidy released was Rs. 24,176 crore which is an increase of 368 per cent.

(b) No, Sir. The accounts of the quantities of foodgrains distributed under the various schemes are maintained by the Government of India. However, the responsibility of ensuring that the foodgrains reach the actual beneficiaries lies with the State Government.

(c) The value of transit loss for the last three years are as under:—

	(Rs. in crore)
2000-01	118.92
2001-02	118.33
2002-03	108.29

The total Shortage (Transit plus storage losses)regularized during the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)
2000-01	180.23
2001-02	171.95
2002-03	162.40

People Below Poverty Line in States

†1235. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the directions given by the Supreme Court during the hearing on a PIL regarding formulation of an action plan after obtaining the number of people living below poverty line from each State;

(b) if so, the number of States included under this action plan; and

(c) the details of the steps taken so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Amongst other measures, the scope of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has recently been enlarged to cover an additional 50 lakh BPL families in the States and Union Territories. Necessary guidelines in this regard were issued in June, 2003 for implementation of the expanded AAY.

The number of additional families to be identified for inclusion in the expanded Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), State-wise, is contained in the enclosed Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.